

Frying Pan Farm Park Welcomes the C.P. JONES CIDER PRESS and TRACTOR

By Todd Brown, Manager, Frying Pan Farm Park

August 1928, Fairfax County. The population was 25,000 and the landscape was dotted with 135,655 apple trees. An area newspaper printed an advertisement for C.P. Jones Cider Pressing Services and farmers across the region answered the ad. They brought their apples to be pressed in the Jones family's new Mount Gilead Cider Press.

This two-story machine that combined wood beams and braces with iron gears and knives was impressive as it ground and pressed apples into juice, which could then be used as cider or converted to vinegar. The purpose of the cider press was quite simple; it would press apples for area farmers and generate income for the Jones family farm. The Jones family pressed apples on their dairy farm until c. 1954. With the incredible machine no longer in use, it was offered to Frying Pan Farm Park almost 50 years later.

The Jones family donated the cider press to the Park Authority in 2001. They also donated an orchard sprayer, a John Deere "B" tractor that was used to power the cider press, a wheel grinder, and artifacts related to the press. The 1948 narrow-fronted tractor was showing its age and a coin toss could have decided the tractor's fate — Frying Pan Farm Park or the scrap yard, but it was decided the tractor would indeed make the trip from the Jones's farm to Herndon despite its decrepit state.



The cider press and tractor in the new Cider Press Barn.

The park's mechanic at the time decided to do an "exploratory" on the elderly tractor and the prognosis was not good. Rust and worn-out parts proved to be the leading factors in the demise of this once-powerful piece of equipment.

In 2003, the park hired a new mechanic. Alan Stull proved to be this tractor's savior. One of his first projects was to reassess the historic tractor. He determined he could rebuild it, pulling together his incredible skills, knowledge base and resources. Grinding, sanding, painting, researching, purchasing, finding, "wheeling and dealing" for parts and assembling were some of the procedures Alan and the tractor went through. The result is a beautiful, restored antique tractor that is now ready to run the cider press again.

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GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION

2:30 pm on Saturday, September 30th

Come see the new Cider Press Barn with the cider press, John Deere "B" tractor, the orchard sprayer, and new interpretive exhibits. It will be open to the public beginning with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 2:30 p.m. on September 30, 2006 at Frying Pan Farm Park. Although using the press for commercial use is no longer possible, running some real apples through the impressive machine for demonstrative purposes is still being researched. The Jones Cider Press adds to the incredible collection of historic artifacts being preserved and interpreted at Frying Pan Farm Park. Call Frying Pan at 703-437-9101 for times and more information.

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FALL FUN

NATURE CENTERS AND HISTORIC SITES

BURKE LAKE PARK

7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station
Call 703-323-6600

COLVIN RUN MILL

10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls
Call 703-759-2771

ELLANOR C. LAWRENCE PARK

5040 Walney Road, Chantilly
Call 703-631-0013

FRYING PAN PARK

2709 West Ox Road, Herndon
Call 703-437-9101

GREEN SPRING GARDENS

4603 Green Spring Rd., Alexandria
Call 703-642-5173

HIDDEN OAKS NATURE CENTER

7701 Royce Street, Annandale
Call 703-941-1065

HIDDEN POND NATURE CENTER

8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield
Call 703-451-9588

HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK

3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria
Call 703-768-2525

LAKE ACCOTINK PARK

7500 Accotink Park Rd., Springfield
Call 703-569-3464

LAKE FAIRFAX PARK

1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston
Call 703-471-5414

RIVERBEND PARK

8700 Potomac Hills Street
Great Falls
Call 703-759-9018

SULLY HISTORIC SITE

3601 Sully Road, Chantilly
Call 703-437-1794

Need directions or more information?
VISIT www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks

Make Your Backyard an Official National Wildlife Federation Certified Backyard Habitat

Saturday, September 23, 1-2pm, FREE
(Families), Hidden Oaks Nature Center
703-941-1065.

Friends of Hidden Oaks Nature Center (FOHONC) invites you to make your yard, school or business property an official National Wildlife Federation certified backyard habitat. It is easier than you think! Special discounts provided by selected Home Depot stores for homeowners who certify their yards. Learn how you can make a natural difference and create a recycled water feature for wildlife that you can take home. Reservations required.



Call your local park, go online at fairfaxcounty.gov/parks or review the "Nature" and "History" pages of *Parktakes* for dozens of great programs at our nature centers and historic sites.

Coming Home to Your Garden:

A Green Spring Gardens Symposium
Saturday, October 21, 8:30am-3pm
703-642-5173

After a busy day, gardeners seek solace in their gardens — nurturing their plant collection. Some gardeners create a private sanctuary, others a place to entertain friends, and some want it all! Let us show you how to transform your backyard into a "living" extension of your home. A great opportunity to learn from professional landscape designers, horticulturists, gardeners and chefs. Fee includes lectures, refreshments and lunch. \$89

Introduction to Fly Tying

Sunday, October 15th
(16 years and up) 12:30-1:30pm
Huntley Meadows Park 703-768-2525

If woolly bugs and hare ear nymphs pique your interest, you may want to try your hand at the intricate art of fly tying. Materials provided. Reservations required. \$10.

Oh Deer!

Sunday, October 29th
(6 years and up) 12:30-2 pm
Huntley Meadows Park 703-768-2525

Families will go off-trail to look for "deer" signs such as scrapes, antler rubs, hoof prints, resting spots, scat and trails; plus learning about the lore and role deer played in the lives of American Indians living in Virginia at the time of the Jamestown settlement. Reservations required. \$2.



JAMESTOWN EVENTS!

VISIT www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/jamestown2007 OR see the Events and History section of *Parktakes*

RESOURCES

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EQUAL ACCESS/SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

The Fairfax County Park Authority is committed to equal access in all programs and services. Special accommodations will be provided upon request. Please call the ADA/Access coordinator at 703-324-8563, at least 10 working days in advance of the date services are needed.

ADA/Access Coordinator 703-324-8563 • TTY 703-803-3354 • www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ada.htm

The First-Ever Corporate Farm Olympics

by Nancy Russo and Ethan Bruce, Fairfax County Park Foundation

Goodbye city life! On Thursday, October 19, 2006, local corporations will send their employees to the farm to compete for bragging rights in the first Corporate Farm Olympics. Accountants, technology experts, consultants and other professionals will face off in farm-themed challenges such as a Hay Stacking Competition, Fence Building Challenge, and Rural Treasures Scavenger Hunt. Office workers of all abilities will compete in an entertaining series of challenges that will demand team effort, problem solving and organizational skills — valuable talents in the workplace, too. They will gain a sense of employee camaraderie while supporting community programs for at-risk youth, people with disabilities, and local historic preservation. The proceeds for the event will benefit Frying Pan Farm Park and the Fairfax County Park Foundation.



If your company would like to get involved, please contact the Fairfax County Park Foundation today at 703-324-8581.

Surrounded by office buildings and housing developments, Frying Pan Farm Park preserves a rural community setting with a fully operational farm, a country store, historic schoolhouse and other attractions. Schoolchildren come to see the newborn goats and chicks, but busy professionals may cruise past on their daily commutes. The Corporate Farm Olympics reaches out to neighboring companies to provide an unforgettable experience.

Call 703-324-8581 to enter your company team.

Support our historic sites, nature centers and recreational programs.

For information:

Call 703-324-8581 or e-mail Robert.Brennan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

To donate online:

visit www.fairfaxcountyparkfoundation.com/involved.html

To donate by mail, send your check made payable to:

Fairfax County Park Foundation
12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 404
Fairfax, VA 22035

The Fairfax County Park Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and all contributions to the Foundation are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

“Volunteering at our county nature centers & historic sites is the perfect antidote to the nightly news and the frenetic pace of life.”

— HARRY GLASGOW, long-time park volunteer and member of the Park Authority Board

If you love being outdoors, gardening, storytelling, arts and crafts, history, wildlife, archaeology, working with people and being creative, then become a park volunteer. Join our dynamic volunteer staff today by visiting www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks or calling 703-324-8750.

A HISTORIC PARTNERSHIP

The Fairfax County History Commission and the Park Authority

By Barbara Naef, Member, Fairfax County History Commission

Preservation of our county's complex heritage is greatly enriched by the expertise and excellence of the county's History Commission. The Commission's contributions and service to the community are inspiring and wide-ranging, including some in partnership with the Park Authority.

In 1965, at the urging of then Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall (who was a county resident), the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors established a Landmarks Preservation Committee. This group was the precursor to the Fairfax County History Commission, officially created by the supervisors in 1969. The Commission's purpose, as stated in its by-laws, "is to advise the County Government and to promote and encourage public interest in all matters bearing on the history of Fairfax County."

In the late 60s, the Commission was instrumental in ensuring that Dranesville Tavern (see page 5) would be saved to become a Park Authority historic site. Since then, many of the publications the Commission has supported and promoted have provided research on such park sites as Colvin Run Mill, Historic Huntley, Mount Air, Walney (at Ellanor Lawrence Park), and Frying Pan Farm Park.

The Commission has established and continues to maintain numerous programs. Here are just a few of the Commission's impressive partnership programs and accomplishments:

The Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites The Commission confirms eligibility for and manages the official Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites. There are approximately 345 properties currently listed, including 30 Park Authority sites.

Research Awards The Commission sponsors an awards program to encourage and recognize original research in Fairfax County history.

Highway Markers Since 1998, it has been installing its Historical Highway Markers at historically significant locations throughout the county.

African-American History The Commission's Oral History Committee has made its initial focus the county's African-American community. The culmination of its first major project, "Celebration of African-American History of Mason District" was a November gathering at the Park Authority's historic Clark House facility where multi generational families gathered to share their family stories, be

videotaped, admire photo and document exhibits, and celebrate their combined history.

Books and Publications The Commission has always promoted a historic publications program. In recent years it has sponsored the publication of three volumes: *The Preservation of History in Fairfax County, Virginia*, 2001; *The Battle of Chantilly (Ox Hill): A Monumental Storm*, 2002; and *Stone Ground, A History of Union Mills*, 2003 (both Ox Hill Battlefield Park and acres of parkland at Union Mills are Park Authority properties). Current projects include reprinting *Beginning at a White Oak: Patents and Northern Neck Grants of Fairfax County*, a critical research tool for local genealogists and historians that has long been out of print.



Annual Fairfax County History Conference In November 2005, the History Commission, the Park Authority and the Fairfax City Museum & Visitors Center, with support of the Fairfax County Architectural Review Board, presented the first Fairfax County History Conference. The sell-out event was held at Frying Pan Farm Park's Visitor Center. **This year's conference is scheduled for November 11, 2006, also at the Visitor Center. The theme of this year's event will be "Documenting and Preserving Our History" and will feature renowned experts in the field and workshops.**

Now the Commission and the Park Authority have extended their partnership to conferencing, in their joint effort to "promote and encourage public interest in all matters bearing on the history of Fairfax County."

SAVE THE DATE

The 2nd Annual Fairfax County History Conference will be on Saturday, November 11, 2006. To learn more about the Fairfax County History Commission, the conference and excellent publications, visit fairfaxcounty.gov/histcomm or call 703-293-6383.

REPRINT ARTICLES

Promote stewardship by reprinting *ResOURces* Articles in Your Homeowner or Civic Association Newsletter.

Go to *ResOURces Online* to pull articles for your communications and include "Reprinted Courtesy of the Fairfax County Park Authority" with the article.

DRANESVILLE TAVERN



Dranesville Tavern may be rented for a variety of private functions, including weddings, parties and business meetings. For more information on renting the Tavern or one of seven other Historic Properties, please call 703-938-8835, e-mail hprs@fairfaxcounty.gov or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/weddings.htm.

In 1840, the village of Dranesville was formed by a Virginia State Assembly Act with one of the Trustees being John T.J. Jackson. Jackson was the brother of George Jackson, the owner of one of several taverns located near the intersection of the Georgetown and Alexandria/Leesburg Turnpikes. Today, Jackson's tavern is known as Dranesville Tavern and is listed on the Virginia and National Register of Historic Places.

The Tavern is typical of the type of inn which, throughout the 19th-century, provided the principal place for food and overnight lodging for travelers, wagoners and drovers moving along the Virginia roads. While the drovers stayed at the Tavern, their animals were kept in small fenced fields on the property. Meals cost 25 cents; a bed for the night cost 35 cents. Cattle were fed for five cents a head and sheep for three.

During the Civil War, the Dranesville area was criss-crossed by both Union and Confederate troops. On December 20, 1861, a skirmish near the site of the Tavern provided the Federals their first tactical success against the Confederates in Virginia. The engagement at the Dranesville Crossroads was small compared to future battles, but did much to boost Union morale. The Virginia Civil War Trails Association erected an interpretive plaque with a map of the battle maneuvers at the tavern in February 2006.

Dear ResOURces:

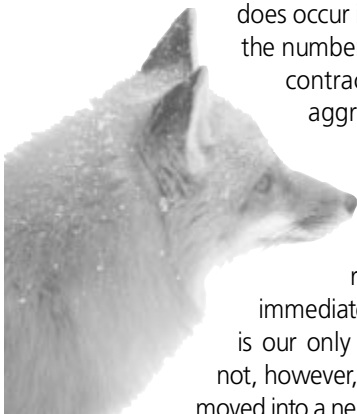
In our housing development, we are allowing some of our green space to return to a natural state as part of our wooded area. However, some of our homeowners are concerned about foxes, whether the grassy area will increase their population, and whether Fairfax County would remove them. I would appreciate it if you do an article on foxes, so I can alert my community association to look at it.

Thanks, Bob

Dear Bob:

I am a naturalist with Fairfax County and I hope that I can provide some information that will help.

The Fairfax County Police Department Animal Control Division primarily deals with animals that pose a direct threat to humans. This is generally **not** the case with foxes unless they are rabid. Rabies does occur in Fairfax County occasionally, but the number of incidents is very low. Foxes do contract rabies. If an animal appears aggressive and does not run when confronted by a human and/or is visibly sick, that should be considered a wildlife emergency and Animal Control will respond. They will also respond immediately if a copperhead is found (that is our only local venomous snake). They do not, however, act as control for wildlife that has moved into a neighborhood and is acting normally.



There are two species of fox in our area: red and gray. Red foxes are the most common (in fact, they are found throughout the northern hemisphere in North America, Europe and Asia and are common in all of those places) and are frequently encountered due to their preference for mixed habitat and often being active when it is light out. Gray foxes prefer forest and are far more nocturnal. Red foxes can be gray and gray foxes usually have some red on them, too. The best discriminating factor is that gray foxes are generally small with a narrower snout, are the only member of the dog family that readily climbs trees, and always have a black tip on their tail.

Foxes provide control of rats, mice and other small animals that are often considered a nuisance to people.

Foxes can become quite adapted to humans. The primary reason for living close to people is the abundant food. People often leave pet food outside and trash that is not secured. In addition, bird feeders not only attract birds, raccoons, opossums, skunks, squirrels and foxes (all of which will eat seed depending on the circumstances), but also mice and rats which are preferred food for foxes. Trash also attracts mice and rats. If foxes are coming up to houses, it is usually because they have found food readily available. The first step to reducing fox activity around houses is to eliminate these food sources.

In addition, if foxes are active during the day, there are usually several reasons: they are starving, they are sick, they are raising young and need to produce more food, they are young and inexperienced, and/or they feel no threat from humans. Foxes are wild dogs. When

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Ten Best Reasons to Visit Colvin Run Mill Historic Site

By Ann Korzeniewski, Assistant Manager, Colvin Run Mill Historic Site



Not all the big wheels are in Washington! One of them is right off of Leesburg Pike in Great Falls. It's the ever-fascinating Colvin Run Mill Historic Site. At Colvin Run, you can get a taste of American know-how and...freshly-ground grains. Restored in 1972, the mill is a Virginia Landmark listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Here are just a few of the reasons to make Colvin Run a priority fall outing.

1. The 19th Century Gristmill with its Huge Waterwheel and Innovative Machinery

Colvin Run Mill's magnificent 20' diameter waterwheel is made of white oak. Inside the c. 1810 mill, the wheel powers gears, grinding stones, grain elevators and other equipment. Historically, mills were the first industrial machines and over time, improvements to milling led to modern innovations. When you take a tour of Colvin Run Mill, you will learn about Oliver Evans' revolutionary ideas for automating gristmills in early 19th century America.



COLVIN RUN MILL STORM UPDATE

The storms of June wreaked havoc everywhere and Colvin Run Mill was no exception. The storms damaged the water supply system that powers the water wheel. Repairs are underway with hope to get the big wheel turning once again by spring, 2007. In the meantime, a smaller grinding stone is being used by the miller to produce fresh stone-ground products.



2. The Freshest Flour, Cornmeal and Grits Around!

Conditions permitting, the miller grinds grain every Sunday, April through October. You can buy freshly ground whole wheat flour, yellow and white cornmeal, and yellow and white grits at the Colvin Run General Store. Looking for tasty recipes using cornmeal? The Friends of Colvin Run Mill have a cookbook just for you — also on sale at the General Store.

3. Cross County Trail hikers and bikers can park and rest here.

The 75-space parking lot at Colvin Run Mill is the largest along the northern section of the Cross County Trail. Heading north you will discover the wild side of Fairfax County. The trail parallels Difficult Run for a while and then goes right through it. Don't worry, the fair weather crossings will keep your feet dry! Stop by the Colvin Run General Store before or after your trail adventure for restrooms, drinks, healthy snacks and trail maps.

4. Come On In and Sit a Spell and...

The park is a quiet oasis where you can step away from the fast pace of modern life for a time. Old-fashioned rocking chairs invite you to wile away an hour on the porch of the General Store. Picnic tables overlooking the mill race offer a scenic spot for a leisurely al fresco meal.

5. Watch the Ducks

Ducks, geese, hawks, herons, frogs and many varieties of songbirds share the park with human visitors. A short nature trail loop leads you uphill above the picnic area where you might get a glimpse of some of the park's animal residents.



6. "Penny" candy in the c. 1900 General Store

Kids from 3 to 93 love sampling the array of old-fashioned candy. A century ago, legend has it, local children hoped to catch the sound of storekeeper Mark Cockrill singing — a sure sign he was in the mood to give away candy. Mr. Cockrill's store still displays a variety of delightful antique items that would have been familiar to him and his rural customers.

7. Historic Reenactments, Cooking, Music and Art for all ages

Seasonal programs, school and scout field trips, concerts and demonstrations fill the calendar. New this fall, visitors can learn about the two honeybee colonies that arrived back in April and have been busily making honey ever since. Our beekeepers will harvest and package this year's honey and also create hand and lip balms available for sale in the General Store.



8. Art and Photography

Every season of the year, photographers and painters are inspired by the beauty of the park and the historic buildings. Let the splendor of fall foliage against mellow old brick bring out the artist in you.

9. Extraordinary Volunteers and Staff

Meet the folks who make it all happen. Dedicated volunteers give up to 700 hours a year guiding tours, teaching school-children, doing research, minding the store, helping out in the mill and a thousand other things. This year, two volunteers will reach a milestone — 25 years of sharing their love of history with visitors.

10. You've driven past 1,000 times!

Not so very long ago, there were hundreds of water-powered mills across Fairfax County. Many were the hub of thriving rural communities. But now, Colvin Run Mill stands as a rare reminder of those mills. The mill and the other old buildings on the site recreate a sense of the community that grew down by the old mill stream. Take some time to get off the road and discover one of Fairfax County's gems!

Hours: Colvin Run Mill is open from 11am to 5pm March through December every day except Tuesdays, when the site is closed. During January and February, site closes at 4pm.

Directions: Beltway Exit 47A (Leesburg Pike, Rt. 7) west 5 miles past Tyson's Corner to right on Colvin Run Road. Left turn into paved parking lot 500 feet beyond gravel drive to mill. For more information, fees, and to verify mill operating hours, call 703-759-2771.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Congratulations to the Colvin Run Mill staff for their success with *Food for Thought*, a one-day symposium that took brought over 30 history and culinary professionals to Colvin Run Mill for talks and demonstrations on stone dressing, barrel-making and women's history through food. Volunteers Crystal Allison, Genie Davis, Kitty O'Hara, Joe Pruden, Iris Schwartz, Mike & Martha Toms and Nick Yannarell enriched their knowledge and enjoyed meeting people from other history organizations.

foxes are encountered near houses, people should hoot and act aggressive. This behavior establishes the people as dominant. Once the foxes understand this, they generally remain further from homes, and they are less active during the day. If people never challenge the foxes, they will act like any other dog and venture closer to the houses.

However, foxes avoid contact with humans. A full-grown fox is a 10 to 12 pound animal that is looking for the easiest food it can find and will avoid danger and harassment. If you eliminate food sources and let them know that you control the turf, it is unlikely they will come back.

The “screaming” sound that foxes make is directly linked to mating activity. Foxes are solitary most of the year. They pair up to mate in January or February. Pups or kits are born in April. Litters are usually four to seven pups. This is the time when the parents are under pressure to provide food for the family and may be seen more during the day.

Foxes usually have a primary den especially when raising young, but will move if they feel threatened. When solitary (which is a substantial part of the year) they can bed down almost anywhere to include a groundhog burrow, under a bush, shed or downed tree, inside a hollow log, etc., although they may have preferred sites.

Foxes do not form packs. They are solitary dogs. They may be seen with other foxes occasionally during mating season or when raising young.

In terms of the issue of mange, it is generally spread from animal to animal. So if people keep their cats indoors (which is a great help to the environment since cats kill a huge number of wild animals including large numbers of song birds), and keep their dogs leashed or in their yards, than the risk of getting mange or another illness from a wild animal would be greatly reduced.

Foxes are beautiful animals that are incredibly well adapted to surviving in a wide range of conditions. They also provide control of rats and other small animals that are often considered a nuisance to people. In addition, it is likely that if you have any natural areas and food, you will almost always have a fox in the area, so it is good to learn to live with and appreciate them.

Sincerely,

Charles Smith

Naturalist III, Natural Resource Management and Protection

Fairfax County Park Authority

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/resources-nrp.htm>

C.P. Jones Cider Press *continued from page 1*

The cider press, orchard sprayer, and other equipment did not arrive at Frying Pan until 2004. Moving the enormous cider press required the collaboration of the Park Authority's Operations Division, Resource Management Division, Frying Pan Farm Park staff and volunteers from the Friends of Frying Pan Farm Park. The old barn which housed the press had to be partially disassembled. The press had to be lifted out in three pieces by a hydraulic loader. It was hauled over to Frying Pan on trailers. There, it was stored in the park's riding facilities, while a new barn was being built. Park Operations was a huge help in managing this project and getting it done.

The new barn mirrored that of the original Jones Cider Press building. Building construction began in the fall of 2005 and was completed in the spring of 2006. In March, the cider press was moved into its new home and completely reassembled. Alan began getting it ready to function once again. This involved more research for historic accuracy, determining the structural integrity of the piece, and solving many other surprise problems that arose.

On April 27, 2006, Ms. Vera Jones, the daughter of C.P. Jones, and a few of her family and friends joined staff and volunteers in witnessing the cider press back in action. This private viewing gave the Park Authority and the Friends group a chance to say thank you to the Jones family for their generous gift, and gave the family an opportunity to reminisce about days on their farm. Preservation, restoration, history, stewardship, community, teamwork, pride, and fun are words that come to mind when describing that day.

- ★ **Frying Pan Farm Park:** open daily dawn to dusk (*call for holiday hours*)
- ★ **Kidwell Farm:** open daily 9am-5pm
- ★ **Hayrides:** 10am-4:30pm, March to November (*call to confirm*)
- ★ **Country Store:** 10am-4:30pm, March to December
- ★ **Visitor Center:** open 10am-4:30pm, Monday through Friday, 12-4:30pm Sunday
- ★ **Indoor and Outdoor Riding Facilities:** hours vary; please call 703-437-9101



The beautiful, restored antique tractor is now ready to run the cider press.

Antique Farm Vehicles and Equipment Need Protection and Care, Too

By Susan Clark, Museum Collections

The Museum Collections Section of the Resource Management Division supervises the stewardship of large farm vehicles and equipment. These valuable antiques require the same meticulous care and preservation as porcelain or furniture. The Collections staff follows professional museum standards for stewardship of our heritage.



Alan Stull, the Park Authority's antique equipment expert, along with Darrell Picard and Keith Stetzer from Park Operations, move the apple cider press to the new Cider Press Barn at Frying Park Farm Park.

Large or small, silver or steel, once an object is placed under the stewardship of the Park Authority, the same level of diligent care and accurate record keeping is applied. Before there is any attempt to clean, stabilize or develop a maintenance schedule, each object is carefully inspected and evaluated. Its historic value, rarity and fundamental condition are documented.

Generating photographic records of each object is an important aspect of this intensive evaluation process. These photographs along with detailed written descriptions comprise the record catalog. These records are essential for the verification and clarification of construction design, manufacturer markings, initial finishes, overall condition and restoration processes. If possible, objects are photographed in their original location prior to being moved to an appropriate Park Authority site.

Early farm equipment usually shows extensive wear due to its daily use in farm operations. This evidence also helps to document historic value. The evaluation of each vehicle or piece of equipment also helps to determine the best way to interpret and exhibit the equipment at a historic site. Farm vehicles and equipment are best housed in a facility where visitors can enjoy seeing them and they are protected from the elements. A maintenance schedule is then developed along with a notebook listing recommended supplies, replacement parts and materials. Handling policies, maintenance procedures and routine repairs are part of the preservation guidelines for site staff to follow.

Old Farm Equipment is Fascinating

Large farm equipment and vehicles are not only complex due to their size, construction and many surfaces, but their composition of various materials and moving parts offer great but rewarding challenges to the staff in charge of their care. Heritage interpreters and park visitors love them, too, because they connect us to the unique farming communities that made up the agricultural heritage of Fairfax County.

The Three Rs of Historic Vehicle Preservation:

Restoration

This is the highest level of conservation treatment consisting of cleaning and coating each piece of the vehicle and only using authentic replacements parts (which can be hard to find). Restoration can be at times costly and time-consuming. This level of treatment was used by Alan Stull at Frying Pan Farm Park to restore the antique Deere tractor that was used to power the Jones cider press (see cover article).

Renovation

Renovation includes the repair and reconstruction of a vehicle in order to keep it operational and looking as close to the original as possible. This even means using original paint colors if they can be found.

Refurbish

This is the lowest level of treatment, similar to what the original owner might have done. A farmer would build replacement parts by borrowing and improvising from other vehicles as needed to keep repair costs to a minimum.

Stewardship Resources

By Meghan Fellows, Naturalist

The implementation of the Natural Resource Management Plan (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/nrmp.htm) is part of a larger trend towards the stewardship of our region. Programs such as the watershed management plans, natural landscaping, reforestation, riparian buffer restoration, rain gardens, green buildings and others are growing and taking shape as people realize that good stewardship makes good sense. Our new focus on the value of stewardship is to remind people about the simple things they can do everyday.

To obtain some of the new resources we've created, call the Resource Management Division at 703-324-8674.



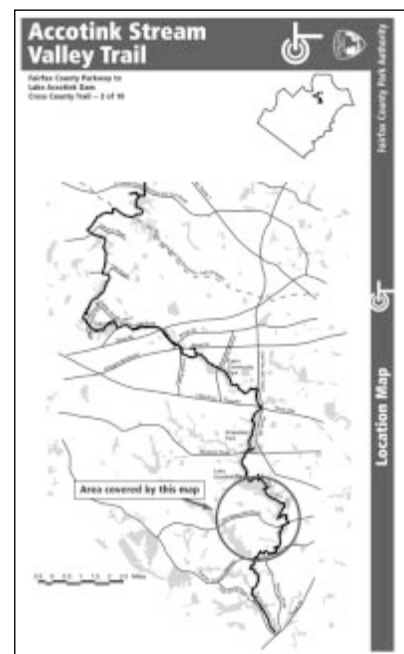
Brochure Series

The *Stewardship Series* brochures, launched with support from the Board of Supervisors, is a simple way to learn more in-depth information on a variety of topics. Check out our most popular brochure, **Invasive Backyard Plants** to find out which of your backyard plants may be invading natural areas.



Poster Series

The *Resource Treasures* poster series, which currently includes *Cultural Treasures* and *Natural Treasures*, provides a quick visual reference to some of the diversity in the county.



Trail Guides

Our trails offer a lot more information as well. Trail brochures, available at Nature Centers and RECenters will start you off. Interpretive waysides along the trail feature topics that range from poison ivy to watersheds, but they all give you food for thought as you wander.

Fairfax County Stewardship A Primer

A Primer for Stewardship: What We're Doing and Why It's Important to Protect, Preserve and Enhance Fairfax County's Cultural and Natural Heritage

Recently, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors introduced a county-wide plan for **environmental excellence**. This environmental vision, along with the Natural Resource Management Plan developed by the Park Authority last year and the long-established Heritage Resource Management Plan, helps set the stage for a new approach to resource management. What's it all about? Stewardship.

Due to the county's tremendous growth, sound stewardship of parklands, green space, public gardens and historical and archaeological sites has become more important than ever. Here's what you need to know about stewardship:

What is stewardship? The Park Authority defines stewardship as the careful, responsible and sustainable management of the natural and cultural resources entrusted to the Park Authority by the citizens of Fairfax County for present and future generations.

Why is stewardship important? Our resources, such as water, trees, plants, animals, archaeological sites and historic structures, are not only directly threatened by development, but also require active and thoughtful management. By preserving and protecting our resources, we ensure they can be enjoyed by future generations.

What are we doing? The Park Authority has always emphasized stewardship - it's a key part of our mission. However, we are now taking a more deliberate and active approach to resource management. This is demonstrated by the adoption of the first-ever agency-wide Natural Resource Management Plan by the Park Authority Board earlier this year and by the Cultural Resource Management Plan that is now in the works. In addition, the plans focus on building and expanding partnerships with other agencies, groups and volunteers. Finally, both plans highlight the important role that education and public involvement play in stewardship.

Some of these stewardship projects include:

- Making natural and cultural resources a key consideration for park use and facilities.
- Working with the county to develop and implement watershed management plans to protect our streams.
- Developing strategies to reduce human impacts on park resources, mediate wildlife conflicts, discourage encroachments, prevent relic hunting and encourage the use of native plants in landscaping on private property.

These examples are just a few of the many initiatives, large and small, that we will be implementing as part of our stewardship vision. This is an exciting time to be a steward of Fairfax County's natural and cultural heritage. We have a lot of work to do. As Mike Kane, the Director of the Park Authority, recently put it in an address to Park Authority employees, "This is stewardship - taking heartfelt and diligent care of our natural and cultural resources in the best way that we can. It is everyone's responsibility."

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/stewardship.htm

Call the Naturalist Line

Our new Naturalist Line offers you the opportunity to get in touch with a naturalist who can answer your direct questions — from ladybug larvae to which species of snake is in the park. Leave a message for a naturalist at 703-324-8580 and we will return your call within one business day.

Stewardship actions and education in Fairfax County are strongly supported by Chairman Gerry Connolly and the entire Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. We thank them for their leadership and vision in preserving our area's natural and cultural heritage through their Environmental Agenda.

Visit the Web!

The stewardship web page is a gateway for all the latest information about stewardship on parklands. Learn more about our plans and policies, volunteer opportunities, and maybe an interesting tidbit about our local dragonfly diversity.



Historic Sites with a Future

The Resource Management Division is working hard to preserve and protect the county's diminishing historic sites.



Chairman Gerry Connolly speaks at the dedication of Oak Hill, a notable 18th century estate in Annandale.



Mt. Gilead, a historic 18th century farm in Centreville.



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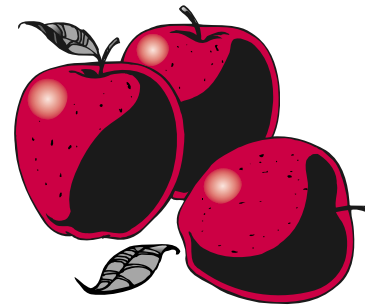
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